



# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Petrobras interested in taking a non-committed second look at Valero

In a last meeting here in Aruba with Brasil's Minister of Energy, Mr. Lobao, he promised that he would make an effort to inform Petrobras that their government considers it important for Petrobras to take a second look at the possibilities to join forces with Aruba in the areas of the refinery, energy and the exploration of gas.

At this stage in the process, the Aruba government has removed all possible obstacles that hindered a



possible deal with Petrobras. Today, they would like to explore what possibilities there are in this new context. One of the obstacles of the past was the BBO on exportation, but this has since been eliminated. Likewise, the government has changed the fiscal regimen of profit taxes; they also settled the old fiscal dispute with Valero, which was one of the concerns of Petrobras back then.

Petrobras has informed the Aruba government that because of the positive atmosphere that reigns now between the government and Valero, that they are willing to participate in a meeting where everyone can put all their cards on the table once more.

The Aruba government is very pleased with the new openness of Petrobras and with their willingness to come back to the table and look at all the options anew and in the most ample context possible. This they are prepared to do, obviously, without making any commitment or offering any expectations. They are open to evaluate what Aruba has to offer.

According to Prime Minister Eman, the government will continue to work on this matter in earnest in the hopes that we can succeed in finding two or three partners with Valero or to find a buyer to take over the refinery. In any event they will not cease until a solution is found for the Aruba Valero Refinery.

## One year after...



(FILES) This file photo taken on January 27, 2012 shows Japanese housewife Yuko Sugimoto (R) posing with her five-year-old son Raito (R) in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, at left: Sugimoto was photographed covered with a blanket on March 13, 2011 while looking for her son after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Twelve months on, Yuko Sugimoto and her family are reunited and living in a temporary home, but the scars from the catastrophe still remain. (AFP PHOTO) see more coverage pg 12



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## Group honoring at the Divi Village Aruba Beach resort



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a big group of loyal and friendly Visitors, at the Divi Village Aruba Beach Resort, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10

to 19 consecutive years and 20 or more consecutive years.

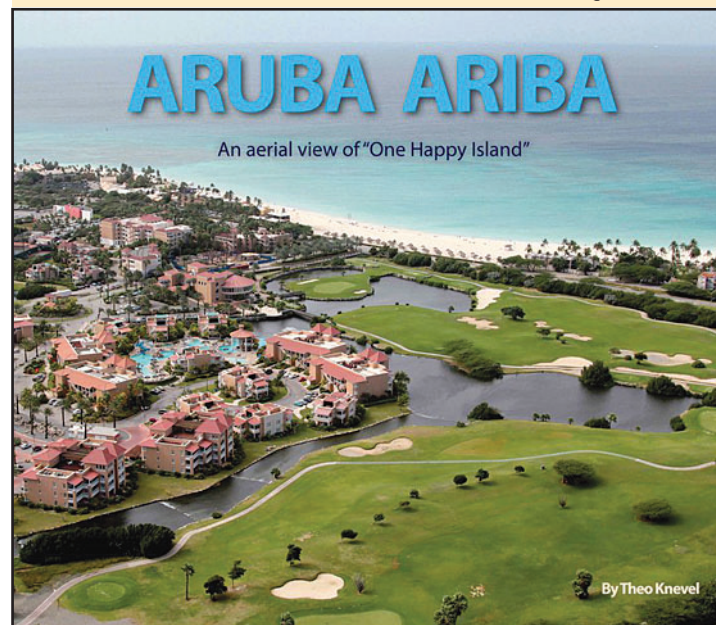
The honorees are Mr. Thomas Randall and Mrs. Janet laing, Mr. Warren and Mrs. Bonnie Niceley, Mr. Walter and Mrs. Pat Kordas, Mr. Donald and Mrs. Joyce Turnbull; they received the Distinguished Visitor certificate. Mr. Bill and Mrs. Andrea Walden received the Ambassador of Goodwill cer-

tificate.

All the honorees have one thing in common; they love Aruba very much, the people, the beaches, restaurants, casinos, in one word "everything" Aruba has to offer to its visitors.

The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with General Manager Mr. Gerrith Griffith General and staff members from the activities desk of the Divi Village Aruba Beach Resort.

## Book signing 'Aruba Ariba' today at Tamarijn Aruba Hotel lobby



A personal invite from Theo Knevel:

*Everybody is very welcome to join us and buy, or take your previously purchased copy of Aruba Ariba with you, so I can write a dedication in your book. If you like to give Aruba Ariba as a present, I can personalize your book with the recipient's name or a short message upon your request.*

**This Saturday morning (March 10th) - 09:00 am till 12:00 pm.- in the Tamarijn Aruba hotel lobby.**

**We hope to see you!**

The book 'Aruba Ariba' by Theo Knevel, has a contemporary look with many illustrative photographs. Each page features aerial portraits

of the island accompanied by smaller detailed photographs with descriptions and interesting local anecdotes.

Theo explained his "main goal was to present Aruba as it is in everyday life, including the refineries and rum shops. I did not search for extremes, but focused on the beautiful nature and authenticity of Aruba. I have had the chance to visit Aruba frequently over the past 20 years, hence, as an experienced 'Aruba tourist' I believe I know all the places that give Aruba its unique character."

'Aruba Ariba' is also for sale at all Van Dorp & De Wit locations and at various kiosks and newsstands found in most of the island's resorts.



**"Where Everyone is Welcome"**

Management reserves the right to discontinue this promotion at any time.

## Jamaica outraged by police killings

Security personnel armed with M16s and machine guns manned roadblocks and detained dozens of young men as part of a crackdown in a Jamaican ghetto where a 13-year-old girl, two elderly men and three others were killed during reported shootouts be-

tween police and gunmen, it was reported yesterday.

Residents of the Denham Town slum in West Kingston blame officers for Monday's killings and the area has been under curfew amid an ongoing security operation to seize illegal guns and fugitives.

Human rights groups accused police of trigger-happy tactics across Jamaica that have caused 45 deaths in just the first 10 weeks of the year.

A total of 21 people were killed by police in the first six days of March.



SATURDAY



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## SETAR N.V. advises possible interruption in Cable T.V. transmission March 12-16 due to sun outage

ORANJESTAD -- Setar Cable Service warns clients will likely experience interruptions in the transmission of some channels, due to expected sun outages that occur twice a year. From March 12 until 16, from 10:27 a.m., until 5:46 p.m. viewers can expect disruption of the following channels at times specified.

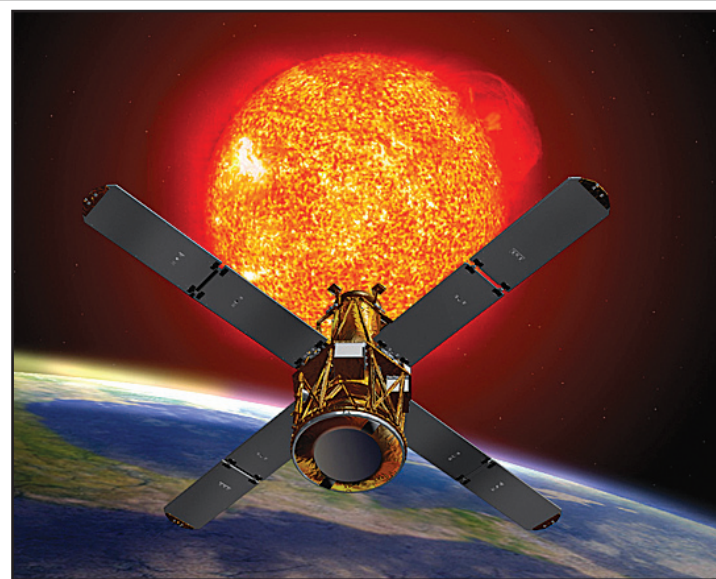
A sun outage, sun transit or sun fade is an interruption in or distortion of geostationary satellite signals caused by interference from solar radiation, an effect which overwhelms the satellite signal. Generally, sun outages occur in February, March, September and October, around the time of the equinoxes. At these times, the apparent path of the sun across

the sky takes it directly behind the line of sight between an earth station and a satellite. As the sun radiates strongly at microwave frequencies which are used to communicate with satellites (C-band, Ka band and Ku band,) the sun swamps the signal from the satellite. The effects of a sun outage can include partial degradation, which is an increase in error rate, or total destruction of the signal.

Customers can expect interruption at these times:

- Between 10:27 and 10:35 a.m.: RCTV channel 24, Cosmo TV channel 42, Disney DX channel 62 GOLTV channel 154, Management TV 164 and El Gourmet channel 176.

- Between 10:39 and 10:47 a.m.: ESPN-6, XEW-9, Discovery-18, Space channel 20, Film Zone channel 21, Headline News channel 30, Boomerang channel 32, Cartoon Channel channel 33, Turner Classic Movie channel 41, Liv channel 36, CNN Internacional 56, Discovery Kids 63, Animal Planet channel 64, Telehit channel 66, Telenovela channel 69, ESPN dos channel 145, Discovery History channel 174, Cinema Golden 182, MTV JAMS 192, MTV hits 193, VH1 Soul 194, Movie City E 220, Movie City W 221, City Mix E 222, City Stars 223, City Family E 224, City Family W 225, City Vibe East 226, City Vibe West 227, ESPN HD 306, Rush HD 309,



Discovery HD 318, SPACE channel 329, HD 319, TLC HD 325, Concert HD 327 and Golden HD

*Continued on page 5*

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## Aruba International Film Festival will host a stellar birthday celebration on Aruba for renowned celebrity DJ Chuckie



**Chuckie with Jonathan Vieira, Neme Bros and Sanju**

AIFF Executive Producer and Co-founder announced on Tuesday, March 6, that the 3Rd edition of the Aruba International Film Festival will take place June 22-28, 2012. Very special guest during the press conference at the home of the AIFF, The Cinemas in Paseo Herencia, was world-renowned DJ Chuckie, who

a concert with his world touring brand Dirty Dutch on Saturday, June 23. "We consider this a very special addition to the opening weekend of the Film Festival," said Mr. Vieira, "and AIFF is proud to consider Chuckie as an Ambassador to the Festival Weekend Concert series, which he will also headline.

This new element to the festival's social events is in line with our plan of bringing the after parties and celebrity-to-guest interaction to another level."

Chuckie, who was born Clyde Sergio Narain in Suriname, made a name as one of the most successful DJ's and producers in Holland and beyond. His energetic mixing skills coupled with his ability to effortlessly cross over into various musical styles, along with his instinctual ability to work a crowd, has extended his popularity well beyond Europe.

Chuckie's 'Dirty Dutch' branded club concept has evolved over the years from a solid urban event for 6,000 people into a massive house music night for 30,000, annually, and consistently sells

out Amsterdam's RAI stadium in record time. Having landed a multi album artist deal with Atlantic Records in the USA, Chuckie has spent



2010 and 2011 working on his own material in the studio alongside megastars such as T-Pain, Tinie Tempah, Kesha, Alexis Jordan, P Diddy, 50 Cent, Lil Jon, and Akon.

"I have been the DJ at many A-list events, making friends with some great folks who love to dance and party to my 'Dirty Dutch' sound," confided Chuckie. "When I heard about the AIFF from some buddies, we figured it would be a terrific place to party. When I told some of my celebrity friends I was on Aruba, they thought it was great and all wanted to come down here and party with me. I have a phone full of numbers of some impressive names, so I thought now would be the time to put it to use. I look forward to having the best birthday ever while here at the AIFF."

**Rosalie Klein**



**Jonathan with Paseo GM Valerie and Marketing Mgr Candy**

stated he was thrilled to be a part of this outstanding event.

This year, the Festival has the honor of partnering with international music superstar DJ/ Artist/Producer Chuckie, who will be celebrating his birthday weekend by staging



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## A Proposal from a Concerned Citizen

I would like to hereby request that the Aruba government investigate the possibility of designating L.G. Smith Blvd. from the traffic circle entering the Marriott Resort until the California Lighthouse as a scenic highway with a maximum posted speed of 40 km/h.

This is a residential road which connects the hotel area with Fisherman Huts, Tierra del Sol, Arashi and the California Lighthouse and it is used by both locals and island visitors to access the north coast beaches, restaurants and tourist attractions. This scenic road is also used daily to showcase our island to our visitors whether by tour bus, jeep, rental car or on foot and it is a premier location to watch a beautiful Aruban sunset.

Finally, after 5:00 pm, this road becomes a haven for walkers, joggers, runners and bikers. Many of Aruba's long distance runners utilize this road for their fitness training including one of our finest runners, Luis Laclé, who is visually impaired and trains daily on this road.

Presently the posted speed is 80 km/h and many cars and taxis exceed this limit making it dangerous for everyone. Let us do something now before we suffer a tragedy. Let us slow down and enjoy the views of our beautiful island and make it a safer place for our walkers, runners and bikers.

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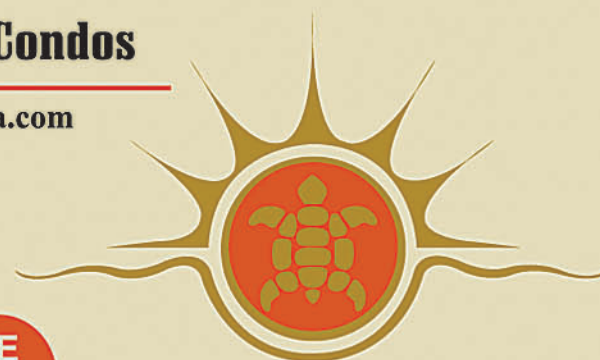
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## SETAR N.V. advises possible interruption in Cable T.V. transmission...

*Continued from page 3*

- Between 11:37 and 11:45 a.m.: 231 Zee TV, 232 Zee Cinema y 233 AEP.

- Between 11:49 and 11:57 a.m.: BBC 5, Hallmark 7, Filmzone 21, HTV 28, Nick LA 31, DW 37, Play H Disney 60, MPLAY 65, TV Colombia 68, ESPNdos 151, Fox Sport LA 142, Discovery Turbo 144, Concert Channel 191, Caracol TV 185, DSCI 162, DCIVI 163, DH&H 174, DT&L 175, PROMO 100, PPV 101/114, HBO East 200,

HBO West 201, HBO Plus East 202, HBO Plus West 203, HBO Family East 204, HBO Signature W 205, HBO Caribbean 206, Cinemax East 207, Cinemax West 208, Max Prime East 209, Max Prime West 210, CCTV 4 - channel 235, CCTV 9 - channel 236 and HNK channel 237.

- Between 2:23 and 2:30 p.m.: Fox News 8, NGE0 29, EWTN 44, BLOOM 32, Tempo 67, Speed 75, Man TV 146 and

NGC/HD 300.

- Between 3:09 and 3:17 p.m.: WGN2, CWII 171, y MY9 - channel 172.

- Between 3:18 and 3:26 p.m.: BlackBeltTV 156, De Pelicula 181, Ritmoson 183, TV Dominicana 184 and Telemundo 186.

- Between 4:19 and 4:27 p.m.: BVN 11, ABC 14, One Caribbean 57, ABC HD 314 and WSE - channel 316.

- Between 4:37 and 4:46 p.m.: HuslerTV - chan-

nel 504

- Between 4:46 and 4:54 p.m.: OUTD 141 and OUTD HD 308.

- Between 4:55 and 5:03 p.m.: CNN 3, Smile 34, TBN 43, BET 67 Centric 196, BET Gospel 197 and LIFE HD 305.

- Between 5:03 and 5:12 p.m.: WLTH 171 and WLTH HD 172.

Between 5:20 and 5:24 p.m.: LIFE 10, LMN 27, LRW 84, Fuel TV 155, DYI 165,

FOOD 178, HGTV 179 and LMN HD 306.

- Between 5:29 and 5:37 p.m.: E! Entertainment 26, CTVG 8 and Fox News HD 303. -

- Between 5:38 and 5:46 p.m.: SPEED 143, SPEED HD 307, CNN 3, CNN HD 303, FoodNetwork 323, HDTV 324 and Mav TV 328.

Duration of the interruption may last a few minutes, though it may vary.



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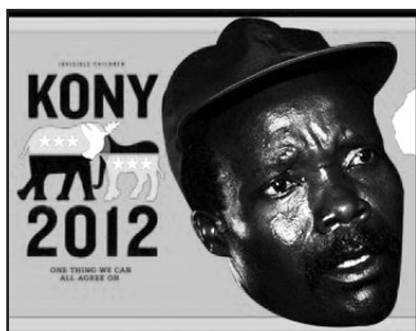
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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## International News

### Ugandan negotiator with rebels backs viral video



UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - A Ugandan minister who negotiated with rebels at the center of an Internet video controversy on Friday backed the video on their leader Joseph Kony that has become a social media sensation.

But Betty Bigombe, who twice tried to negotiate peace deals with Kony's Lord's Resistance Army, said the US

group that made it should be doing more to help in Uganda.

"Invisible children has brought it into bedrooms, into sitting rooms and places, but we would like to see them do something tangible, on the ground, in Uganda," Bigombe told AFP on the sidelines of a UN meeting.

"It has increased awareness in the world, with youth, with everybody," Bigombe, Uganda's minister for water resources, said.

The hashtag "#stopkony," about the fugitive LRA head has surged on Twitter since the release of the 30-minute video by Invisible Children, a California-based advocacy group, which has been viewed by

over 40 million people in three days.

"I remember when I came to the US and the media said, 'Well these kind of topics does not appeal to our kind of audience,'" Bigombe said.

As state minister for northern Uganda in the 1990s, Bigombe tried to negotiate a peace deal with Kony following the failure of army efforts to defeat the rebel group. She launched a new attempt in 2004-05. The LRA backed out of each effort.

The US presidency and a string of celebrities have backed the Invisible Children. But the group has been criticized for using funds raised -- some 70 percent or more by some accounts -- for salaries, travel expenses and filmmaking.

### Pope condemns gay marriage in speech to US bishops

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Benedict XVI on Friday condemned gay marriage in a speech to bishops from the United States after Maryland last week became the eighth US state to legalise same-sex unions.

"Sexual differences cannot be dismissed as irrelevant to the definition of marriage," the pope said, warning against "the powerful political and cultural currents seeking to alter the legal definition of marriage".

"Marriage and the family are institutions that must be promoted and defended from every possible misrepresentation of their true nature."

He also said bishops could not overlook "the serious pastoral problem presented by the widespread practice of cohabitation".

"The contemporary crisis of marriage and the family... has led to grave societal problems bearing an immense human and economic cost," he added.

Benedict XVI has frequently warned against lib-

eral family values in veiled references to homosexual marriage and adoptions by gay couples, and the Catholic Church often condemns countries that recognise gay rights.

The pope's fears that the traditional family is at risk are likely to be the focal point of the World Meeting of Families 2012 in Italy in June.

From Europe to the United States and Mexico, gay rights groups pushing for marriage and child adoption reforms are winning growing support, marking a change in public opinion which worries the Vatican.

The issue has sparked heated exchanges between Church leaders and politicians.

Earlier this month, Britain's Cardinal Keith O'Brien told Prime Minister David Cameron that same-sex unions were "madness" and a "grotesque subversion of a universally accepted human right".

### Australia flood bill mounts and more rain forecast

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australia's flood crisis was set to cost in excess of Aus\$500 million (US\$530 million) in New South Wales alone and more rain was on the way, the state government said Friday.

Eastern Australia has endured torrential rainfall for more than a week, leaving hundreds of homes flooded, damaging roads and bridges and soaking farmland in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria states.

"We have a damages bill at the moment that my guys are telling me is heading way north of \$500 million," New South Wales Roads Minister Duncan Gay told ABC radio, adding that the state had been "horrendously hurt".

"The weather forecasters are telling me that April will be the worst that we've faced yet,"

due to a weather pattern known as "La Nina".

La Nina conditions typically bring higher-than-normal rainfall with Sydney on Thursday feeling the force of nature with an estimated 119 millimetres (more than four and a half inches) falling on the city -- the highest daily total since 2007.

As the waters eased in some areas across NSW, communities downstream from the floods were bracing for the surging torrents yet to pour through the Murrumbidgee, Lachlan and Hawkesbury river systems.

In Sydney, where heavy rain Thursday swept away cars and flooded railway lines, residents on the city's northwestern outskirts were being urged to prepare to evacuate their homes.

Further inland, residents of

the country towns of Condobolin and Narrandera were bracing for the coming floods and people in the Victoria town of Nathalia were hoping their levee would hold.

Elsewhere, such as in New South Wales's biggest inland city of Wagga Wagga, emergency officials began the massive clean-up as flood waters began to subside. But residents were still faced with water-logged homes and farms.

Hundreds of fire and emergency workers were hosing out homes, businesses and schools and clearing roads, Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller Assistant Commissioner Mark Murdoch said.

So far two people have died in the floods, after they attempted to cross waterways in cars.



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## International News

### Israeli strikes kill four in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) - Israeli air strikes on the Gaza Strip Friday killed four Palestinian militants, including the head of a radical group, while mortar and rocket fire from Gaza pounded the Jewish state.

One strike, on a car travelling in the Tel El-Hawa neighbourhood west of Gaza City, killed the head of the militant Popular Resistance Committees, Zohair al-Qaisi, and fellow-member Mahmud Hanani, the group said.

A second air raid, on the east side of the city, killed Obeid al-Gharabli and Mohammed Harara, of the Al Quds Brigades, the military arm of Islamic Jihad, that organisation said in a statement.

A third strike, on Zeitoun, east of the city, caused no casualties, Palestinian security sources said.

The two strikes came in response to Palestinian mortar and rocket attacks on southern

Israel, in which no casualties were reported.

The military said that during the course of the day a total of 16 rockets and mortar rounds from Gaza slammed into southern Israel.

Both the PRC and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed offshoot of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah movement, issued statements claiming to have fired rockets into Israel on Friday.

The Israeli military said Qaisi "was among the leaders who planned, funded and directed" a deadly cross-border attack into southern Israel from Egypt's Sinai last August.

In that incident, gunmen carried out a coordinated series of shooting ambushes on buses and cars on Route 12, which runs along the Egyptian border some 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of the Red Sea resort of Eilat.

The shootings took place

over several hours, leaving eight dead and more than 25 wounded.

The military statement said Qaisi was also involved in a 2008 attack on a terminal for pumping fuel from Israel into the Gaza Strip, in which two Israeli civilians were killed.

The statement added that both the dead men were "responsible for planning a combined terror attack that was to take place via Sinai in the coming days."

It said that the other two strikes were aimed at men about to fire rockets into Israel.

Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, has maintained a tacit truce with Israel, but other armed Palestinian groups regularly fire rockets and mortars across the border, which can spark air strikes in response.

The relatively small Popular Resistance Committees is one of the most active, and it pledged to avenge its men's deaths.

### Haiti president shows passport to end controversy

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) - Seeking to end rumors that he is a US citizen, President Michel Martelly on Thursday showed his Haitian passport on national television.

Haiti's constitution does not allow dual nationality, and charges that he has foreign passports -- raised by his opponents -- has been a thorn in Martelly's side for months.

Martelly lived in the United States for some time and obtained a US residency card, which he said he surrendered upon being elected to office.

"I am a native Haitian. I, Joseph Michel Martelly, have never lied," the president said during a meeting with religious leaders at the presidential palace which was broadcast on national televi-

sion.

Also at the event was Kenneth Merten, the US ambassador to Haiti, who vouched for the Haitian leader.

"I can say that President Martelly is not a US citizen -- he is a Haitian," Merten said. Senior Haitian government members at the event applauded the statement.

Martelly showed eight passports -- all Haitian -- to religious leaders from the group "Religion for Peace."

In Haiti, when a person's passport expires, the original does not have to be returned.

For the past three months, a Haitian senate committee has been investigating Martelly's nationality and that of his government ministers. The committee has written to US and

Italian authorities seeking data on Martelly's nationality.

On Wednesday, the committee published a partial report stating that three cabinet officials were found holding a US, Spanish and Canadian passport, respectively.

On March 1, Martelly asked Foreign Minister Laurent Lamothe to become prime minister after Garry Conille resigned as prime minister on February 24, after just four months in office, amid tension over the dual nationality issue.

Martelly's administration is trying to ramp up stalled reconstruction efforts following the devastating January 2010 earthquake that flattened large parts of Port-au-Prince and damaged much of the south of the country.

### Four Syrian generals defect, arrive in Turkey: report

ANKARA (AFP) - Four generals who had defected from the Syrian army arrived in Turkey Friday, Anatolia news agency reported, citing local Turkish sources.

The four were among some 10 high-ranking army officers stationed in cities including Damascus, Homs and Latakia, who crossed the border into Turkey's southern province of Hatay to join the Syrian rebels, the state-run Turkish agency said.

Fahd al-Masri, an advisor for Syrian opposition group the Higher Revolutionary Council, told AFP that six brigadier-generals had defected in the last 48 hours along with four colonels, a lieutenant colonel, a major and a female lieutenant.

He said they were from the province of Idlib near the Turkish border, where Syrian troops have been reported been massing this week, ahead of an expected large-scale offensive.

The military buildup has prompted concerns that Idlib could suffer the same fate as the Baba Amr neighbourhood of the central city of Homs, which was stormed by government troops on March 1 after a month of shelling.

Idlib is considered important because of the presence of a large number of Free Syrian Army members, particularly in the Japal al-Zawiya area.

Frightened by the possibility of an operation in Idlib, many Syrians have fled across the border.

With the latest wave of arrivals on Friday, the number of Syrians entering Turkey in one single day reached 234, Anatolia said, citing Yusuf Guler, the district governor of Hatay's Reyhanli village.

The arriving refugees are being placed in tent camps in Hatay, where members of the rebel Free Syrian Army, made up of deserters from the Syrian security forces, are also based.



**SPAIN, Gerri de la Sal** : Smoke billows above one of the four wildfires that have so far ravaged 1,200 hectares (3,000 acres) of land, in the northeastern region of Catalonia, near the northern Spain village of Gerri de la Sal on March 9, 2012. Emergency services workers evacuated about 200 people from their homes on March 8 because of the risk from the flames but the majority have already been allowed to return to their homes. Spain is struggling through its driest winter since the 1940s, according to the national weather office. **AFP PHOTO**





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## Health & Living

### 13 million people threatened by food crisis: Oxfam



(AFP) - About 13 million people living in west and central Africa face a major food crisis unless immediate action is taken, humanitarian group Oxfam warned Thursday.

A dangerous combination of drought, high food prices, reduced harvests, poverty and conflict are driving an emerging crisis across several nations including Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and northern Senegal, the

group said.

In Chad, the situation already is so bad that some villagers are digging into ant hills to collect grain the insects have stored.

"All signs point to a drought becoming a catastrophe if nothing is done soon," said Mamadou Biteye, Oxfam's regional director for west Africa. "A concerted aid effort is needed to stop tens of thousands dying due to interna-

tional complacency."

In the countries most affected, malnutrition rates are at between 10-15 percent and more than one million children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition.

The group said that in northern Mali, clashes between the army and Tuareg rebels have forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes, adding extra pressure for resources in surrounding countries. Oxfam wants to raise \$37 million (28 million euros) to provide food and support to about one million people.

### HIV infection rates lower in high treatment areas: study



(AFP) - A new study shows that people living in areas where uptake of HIV treatment is high are less likely to acquire the virus than in places where few are given care, UNAIDS said Thursday.

The research by the Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies marks the first time that the positive impact of antiretroviral therapy on infection rates has been proven for a community, said the UN agency.

"These findings are extremely important," said UN-



(AFP) - A type of bacteria mostly found in raw chicken meat that can cause diarrhoea and fever is on the rise in the European Union, according to

a report from European food safety agencies published.

The report found that cases of *Campylobacter* rose by seven percent to 212,064 in 2010 -- the last year for which such data is available and the fifth consecutive year of increases in reported cases of the bacteria in humans.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in Italy and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Sweden said in their report that the reasons for the increase were "not completely understood."

The report also said that cases of another type of bacteria, *Salmonella*, fell to 99,020 in 2010 compared to 108,618 in 2009. Human infections of *Listeria* also decreased slightly to 1,601 from 1,654 in 2009.

But the report found that human cases of Shiga toxin-verotoxin, which produces *Escherichia coli*, also known as *E.coli*, increased to 4,000 in 2010 from 3,573 in 2009 with particularly high rises in Germany and the Netherlands.

The report said 25 people died as a result of illnesses from food or animals in 2010 including 16 from *Salmonella* and four from *Listeria*. The highest number of reported deaths -- seven -- was in Spain followed by five in Britain.

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## Facebook co-founder buys The New Republic

(AFP) - Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes, who left the social network to work on the online arm of Barack Obama's 2008 White House campaign, has bought a majority stake in The New Republic magazine.

Hughes, 28, who was Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg's roommate at Harvard University, announced the move in an online letter to readers of the publication, a nearly century-old bastion of liberal political thought.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed. The magazine is owned by an investor group that includes long-time editor-in-chief Martin Peretz.

"Technology's disruption of traditional forms of media has led many to believe that independent, thoughtful media institutions are on the decline and that there are not enough readers to support serious reporting and analysis," Hughes said.

"When few people are investing in media institutions with such bold aims as 'enlightenment to the problems of the nation,' I believe we must," he said.

Hughes, who is assuming the titles of publisher and editor-in-chief, said the Web "has introduced a competitive, and some might argue hostile, landscape for long, in-depth, resource-intensive journalism."

"But as we've seen with the rise of tablets and mobile



reading devices, it is an ever-shifting landscape -- one that I believe now offers opportunities to reinvigorate the forms of journalism that examine the challenges of our time in all their complexity," he said.

Hughes said the New Republic "will aggressively adapt to the newest information technologies without sacrificing our commitment to serious journalism."

"We will look to tell the most important stories in politics and the arts and provide the type of rigorous analysis that The New Republic has been known for," he said, adding that the magazine "will remain a journal of progressive values."

Hughes left Facebook in 2007 to join the Obama campaign and was notably responsible for creating the Obama campaign website, My.BarackObama.com.

He launched a new venture, Jumo, in 2010 to promote charitable causes. Jumo merged with a similar organization, GOOD, in August of last year.

## Sci-Tech

# Hacker ring busted after leader turns FBI informant

(AFP) - Five alleged computer hackers in Britain, Ireland and the United States were charged Tuesday in high-profile cyber-attacks after a leader of the group became an FBI informant.

The charges against alleged members of Anonymous, Lulz Security and other international hacking groups were unveiled in indictments unsealed by the US District Court for the Southern District of New York.

The indictments cover some of the most notorious hacking incidents of the past several years including those against Sony Pictures Entertainment, private intelligence firm Stratfor and computer security firm HBGary.

The defendants were also accused of involvement in attacks on videogame maker Bethesda Softworks, the Irish political party Fine Gael, the Fox Broadcasting Company and the Public Broadcasting Service.

The five charged were Britons Ryan Ackroyd, 23, of Doncaster, and Jake Davis, 29, of Lerwick, Shetland Islands; Darren Martyn, 25, of Galway, Ireland; Donncha O'Cearrbhail, 19, of Birr, Ireland; and Jeremy Hammond, 27, of Chicago.

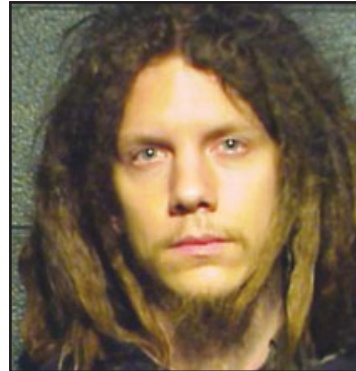
The US authorities also revealed that Hector Xavier Monsegur, 28, of New York, who was known by the screen name "Sabu," had pleaded guilty to a series of computer hacking crimes which could land him in prison for 124 years.

US law enforcement officials declined to confirm that Monsegur, a leader of Anonymous offshoot Lulz Security, or LulzSec, had been cooperating with the US authorities but Fox News said he has been secretly working with the FBI for months.

According to court papers released Tuesday, Monsegur pleaded guilty in August to 12 hacking-related charges and admitted involvement in attacks by Anonymous on the websites of MasterCard, PayPal and Visa and the Algerian, Tunisian, Yemeni and Zimbabwean governments.

Ackroyd, who went by the screen name "kayla," and Davis, known as "topiary," were both arrested last year in Britain. They each face two counts of computer hacking conspiracy, which carry a maximum total sentence of 20 years in prison.

Ackroyd and an unidentified 17-year-old male were



also charged in Britain on Tuesday with two counts of computer hacking conspiracy, according to a Scotland Yard statement.

Ackroyd will appear at London's Westminster Magistrates' Court on March 16 while the 17-year-old will appear at West London Youth Court on March 13.

Martyn, whose screen name was "pwnsauce," also faces two counts of computer hacking conspiracy while O'Cearrbhail, known online as "palladium," faces one count of computer hacking conspiracy and another of disclosing an unlawfully intercepted phone call which could send him to prison for five years.

O'Cearrbhail was specifically charged with accessing, secretly recording and publicly releasing a recording of a January 17 conference call between the FBI and Scotland Yard discussing operations against Anonymous.

According to the court papers, O'Cearrbhail found out

about the phone call and how to access it by hacking into the personal email account of an officer with Ireland's national police, the An Garda Siochana, or Garda.

Hammond faces one count of computer hacking conspiracy, one count of computer hacking, and one count of conspiracy to commit access device fraud. Each count carries a maximum sentence of 10 years behind bars.

Hammond, who went by the screen name "Anarchaos," was accused of hacking into the computer network of Stratfor in December 2011, stealing credit card information about 60,000 users, account information about 860,000 Stratfor subscribers or clients and emails from the Texas-based firm.

The Stratfor emails were later turned over to WikiLeaks, which began publishing them last month, and the credit card information was used to make \$700,000 in unauthorized purchases, according to the indictment.

Members of Anonymous downplayed the charges on Tuesday, saying on Twitter feed @anonops that "LulzSec was a group, but Anonymous is a movement. Groups come and go, ideas remain."

"Anonymous is a hydra, cut off one head and we grow two back," the group said on another Twitter feed, @YourAnonNews.

## Hiss and hers: When women are best at spotting snakes

PARIS - Women who have just finished ovulating are better at detecting snakes than at other times of their menstrual cycle, according to an unusual study that sheds light on in-built reflexes for survival.

Nobuo Masataka of Japan's Kyoto University tested 60 healthy women of child-bearing age at three different phases of their cycle.

They were simultaneously shown nine pictures, one of which was a snake among flowers while the others were only of flowers.

The volunteers were tested on how quickly they spotted the serpent.

The fastest women were those who were in the so-called luteal phase of their menstrual cycle, or the stage that immediately follows ovulation.

The study strengthens theo-

ries that we have a "fear reflex," or an innate response to threat signals such as potentially poisonous snakes, Masataka believes.

Previous research has found this trait among infants aged as young as eight months and even among non-human primates.

Among women, the reflex seems to be influenced by hormone levels at a stage when they could be pregnant and thus be more protective towards their foetus, the study suggests.

"It could contribute to women's ability to increase their vigilance towards biologically relevant threatening stimuli around themselves during this period of possible pregnancy," it says.

The paper was published on Thursday in the British journal Scientific Reports.

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## CALVIN and HOBBS



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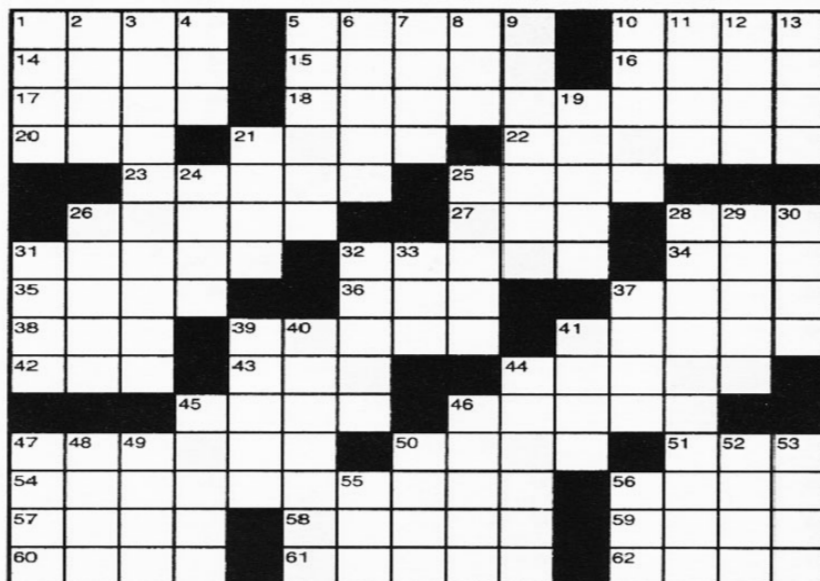
## ACROSS

1. Pater, informally
5. Clean a fish
10. Prepare wax for candlemaking
14. Barren
15. Bobble
16. Lily shrub
17. Like a blue moon
18. Fast craft
20. Guido's high note
21. Weighty book
22. Dunne et al.
23. Mountain lakes
25. Billfold bills
26. Erased
27. "\_\_\_ serious!"
28. Tokyo sash
31. Edwin of the hurdles
32. Spurious
34. Corp. position
35. Wimbledon champ Arthur
36. Before, to a poet
37. Ball\_\_\_ hammer
38. Aloha wreath
39. Destroy documents
41. Pews
42. Clairvoyance: abbr.
43. Rower's implement
44. Graceful birds
45. Askew
46. Con man's colleague
47. Used the rheostat
50. Doe pursuer
51. Hay or Holm
54. Arctic craft
56. "A Loss of Roses" playwright

## DOWN

1. Shave
2. Uzbekistan's sea
3. Bounding main craft
4. Lemon drink
5. Duel
6. Bones up
7. Goldie and Ruth's '60s costar
8. Mauna \_\_\_
9. Winter weasels
10. Stable moms
11. Sparkle
12. "M. Butterfly" star John
13. Poet Gallagher
19. Sharp ridge
21. Exceedingly, in Paree
24. Protected, at sea
25. Leered
26. Medicinal amounts
28. Vacation craft
29. Red roots
30. Electrified particles
31. "The \_\_\_ Animal" (Thurber)
32. Roxy Music frontman
33. "You \_\_\_ Sixteen"
37. Resound
39. Crop starter
40. Most difficult
41. Drink from a hip flask
44. "West Side Story" gang
45. Stroll
46. Cubic meter
47. Coin with a tails-side torch
48. Cake topper
49. "The \_\_\_ Season" (1985 film)
50. Three-handed card game
52. "The African Queen" scriptwriter
53. Hawaiian goose
55. Munched
56. Believer: suffix

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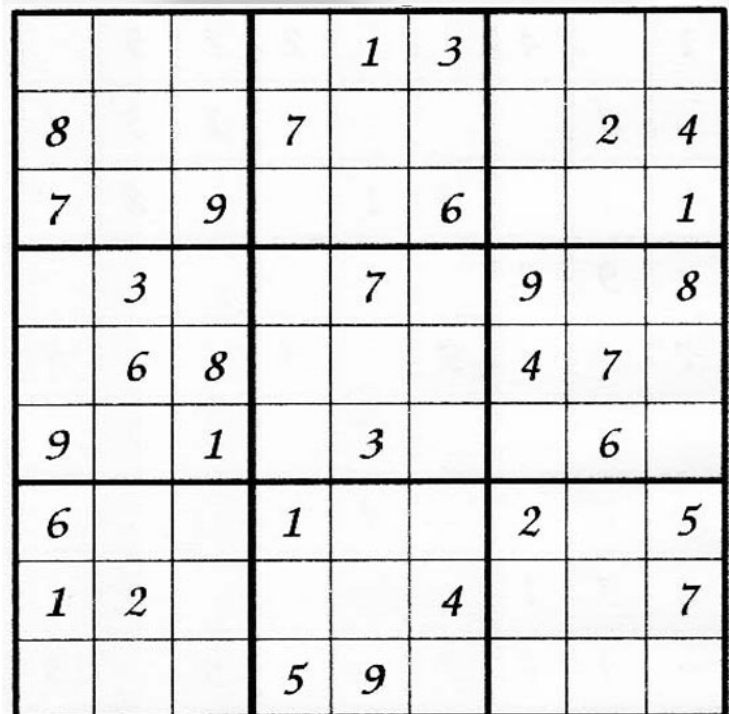
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## Sudoku




## SOLUTION

9	4	1	7	6	5	2	8	3
2	6	8	4	9	1	5	7	3
5	3	7	2	8	1	4	6	9
7	9	5	1	2	6	8	3	4
8	1	6	5	2	9	7	4	3
1	8	9	4	7	3	6	5	2
4	7	9	6	5	2	1	8	3
6	5	2	1	8	9	4	7	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9





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## Obama welcomes positive jobs data

(AFP)-- President Barack Obama declared Friday that America "will thrive again" as another encouraging report on jobs growth delivered a new boost to his campaign for a second term.

Obama traveled to a Rolls Royce engineering plant in the general election swing state of Virginia to fete the rebound in manufacturing and argue that his oft-criticized economic policies had underpinned the recovery.

"We will thrive again. We will get to where we need to go, and we will leave behind an economy that is built to last," Obama said, injecting a note of pure politics into what had been billed as a routine official event.

Perceptions of a strengthening recovery were fueled by Labor Department figures showing the economy created a net 227,000 jobs in February. The jobless rate was steady at 8.3 percent.

## Banks caution Europe against new debt swap

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The head of the Institute of International Finance, Charles Dallara, warned Friday against any more eurozone sovereign debt restructuring in the wake of Greece's huge writeoff deal.

"I would strongly discourage other governments, other peoples of Europe from going this route," Dallara, the IIF managing director who led the private-sector negotiations with the Greek government, told CNBC television.

On Thursday the world's biggest debt restructuring in history was completed, accepted

by an overwhelming majority of Greece's private creditors.

But it has led to questions as to whether Portugal or Ireland, currently undergoing EU-International Monetary Fund bailouts like Greece, would follow suit to lower their debt service costs.

Asked why he would discourage this Dallara said: "Because it has been extraordinarily painful for the citizens of Greece, for the leaders of Greece, and for the entire eurozone: it just cast a cloud over the eurozone that has hung there for months and months," he said.

## Finance

# RBC Retail Banking Brand officially introduced on Aruba



RBC Corporate executives Andre Roberts and Catherine Adams



Harriett Thornhill with kids of Art Rules Aruba

The acquisition of RBTT Financial Group by the Royal Bank of Canada was announced in 2008, and on Monday, March 5, Mrs. Harriett Thornhill, Regional President, Personal Banking, Caribbean Banking, RBC, announced the start of formal operations on Aruba under the RBC banner. RBC has now fully replaced the RBTT retail banking brand. Royal Bank of Canada is the largest in Canada and among the largest in the world, based on market capitalization.

"Today marks a significant milestone for our company as we bring the history and heritage of RBTT and RBC in the Caribbean together for the benefit of our clients," Thornhill commented at the Sasaki branch,

headquarters on Aruba, which was attended by several RBC management executives on island for the event. The unveiling was accompanied by a number of charitable donations to local foundations and the entertaining staging of a flash mob.

Royal Bank of Canada has had a presence in the Caribbean since 1882, with operations spanning 14 islands by 1996. The acquisition of RBTT created one of the most extensive banking networks in the region, and with Aruba's re-branding following on the process in Suriname a month ago. This will continue in Curacao, Bonaire, St. Maarten and Saba, with the Eastern Caribbean and Barbados to follow.

The existing RBC operations in the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos, and Eastern Caribbean will also take on the updated brand expression to present on RBC in the Caribbean.

Ms. Thornhill commented that the rebranding leveraged RBC and RBTT's more than 100-year heritage in the Caribbean as the bank puts its global and regional strength to work for clients.

"Aruba has long anticipated this day and we are proud indeed to begin serving the community under the RBC banner," stated Pierre Rafini, Area Vice President, Business Banking. "Today's rebranding signals our confidence in the future and demonstrates, beyond the shadow of a doubt, the strength, heritage and stability of RBC to all our stakeholders and our continued commitment to our invaluable clients, as well as the banking sector."

In keeping with RBC commitment to the community, Ms. Thornhill and Mr. Rafini handed out checks to the representatives of the Special Olympics Committee Aruba, attending with a number of special athletes, Aruba Reef Care Project, which conducts an annual clean up of our beaches and marine environment, and Art Rules Aruba, a summer program in the arts for island youth.

RBC celebrated the official unveiling with celebrations at all branches throughout the day; Bank patrons enjoyed musical performances and treats and a special party for corporate clients was conducted in the evening.

## YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Current as of:  
03/08/2012

Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD 1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG 0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD 1.770	1.790	1.810
Britain	GBP 2.740	2.790	2.850
Switzerland	CHF 1.9478	1.9550	1.9630
Netherlands	EUR 2.3281	2.3494	2.3730
Sweden	SEK 0.2539	0.2611	0.2691
Denmark	DKK 0.3064	0.3136	0.3216
Norway	NOK 0.3053	0.3125	0.3205
Japan	JPY 215.71	217.68	219.86

(per 10,000)



## One year on, 'ghosts' stalk Japan's tsunami city



Vehicles move among fishing vessels that were carried from Kesennuma port by the March 11 tsunami, at the Kesennuma city, Miyagi prefecture.



This file photo taken on March 21, 2011 shows a cemetery littered with cars deposited by the tsunami in Ishinomaki in Miyagi prefecture.

ISHINOMAKI (AFP) - A year after whole neighbourhoods full of people were killed by the Japanese tsunami, rumours of ghosts swirl in Ishinomaki as the city struggles to come to terms with the awful tragedy.

One reconstruction project appears stalled because of fears the undead spirits of those who perished last March will bring bad luck.

"I heard people working to repair the store became sick because of ghosts," Satoshi Abe, 64, said, gesturing to a half-repaired supermarket.

"People died everywhere, here and there. The city is full of such stories," he said.

In some parts of this once vibrant fishing port, signs of life are returning -- houses are being rebuilt, businesses are re-opening and children are back at school.

But with around a fifth of the 19,000 who died across the northeast having lost their lives in this small city alone, few think it can ever be normal again.

Shinichi Sasaki said the memory of March 11, 2011 never leaves and it is this persistent memory that creates the "ghosts".

"If you know someone who was killed, and the death was

so sudden, you may feel that person is still there. I don't believe in ghosts but I can understand why the town is rife with rumours."

One taxi driver, who did not want to give his name, told AFP of his unwillingness to stop in parts of the city that were all but wiped out by the enormous waves, because he worries that his customer will be a spirit.

A woman who lives in the city said she had heard stories of queues of people who can be seen rushing towards the hills as they try again and again to escape the waves, an endless replay of their last, fruitless minutes.

Counsellors and academics say a widespread belief in ghosts is fairly normal in the aftermath of a major tragedy and forms a part of the healing process in a society.

Cultural anthropologist Takeo Funabiki said it was only "natural" that stories of the supernatural abounded following such an event.

"Human beings find it very difficult to accept death, whether they are inclined by nature to superstition or are very scientifically minded," he told AFP.

"A sudden or abnormal

death, anything other than someone dying in bed of old age, is particularly difficult for people to comprehend.

"When there are things that many people find difficult to accept, they can find expression in the form of rumours or rituals for the dead, amongst other things.

For some of those who lost loved ones, the traditions that usually accompany death in Japan have served their purpose.

Shinto priests have been called upon to console the souls of the dead and ease their passage into the next world before they purify the places where their bodies were found.

At the Buddhist festival of Obon in midsummer, offerings were made at altars as those left behind readied to welcome back the spirits of lost loved ones they believed would return to this world to visit for a few days.

But other people have struggled to make sense of their loss.

Koji Ikeda, a therapist and lecturer at the Academy of Counsellors Japan, said "survivors have various complex emotions -- fear, anxiety, sorrow or desire for the return of deceased people".

"It is possible that a whole lot of emotions that people cannot fully cope with lead to 'projections' of spirits" he said.

"Pent-up emotions need to be expressed in order for people to be able to adapt to the new reality and move forward with their grief."

While few in the city will talk openly of actually having seen a ghost, many are prepared to accept spirits could stalk the deserted streets.

Yuko Sugimoto says she is not particularly superstitious and has not seen any ghosts. But still she has no doubt they could be there among the shadows.

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## Jews are 'people of the Facebook,' Peres jokes



A picture provided by the Israeli Government Press Office shows Israeli President Shimon Peres (L) and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg during the launch of Peres' new page on the social networking site.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Jews are the people of the Book but also the "people of the Facebook," Israeli President Shimon Peres joked Thursday about his flashy new page -- complete with electro-pop video -- on the site.

"You have to speak the language of the young people," the 88-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner laughed, when asked about the eye-popping "Be my Friend, for Peace," video on the social network.

The former Israeli premier and foreign minister launched his Facebook account earlier this week at the company's Silicon Valley headquarters, alongside the web giant's founder and boss Mark

Zuckerberg.

In a jump-cut video set to a thumping beat, Peres is shown at a lectern asking online surfers to be his Facebook "friend," while archive footage shows him at various points in his long political career.

"I am truly excited to write the first post on my wall. I hope to find this page to be a place where peace dreamers and believers speak up and share their stories and experiences with me," he wrote.

Asked about joining Facebook at an event in Beverly Hills on Thursday night, Peres said that the Jewish people were a "people of the book," but that they had now become a "people of the Facebook."

The Israeli statesman traveled to California after accompanying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier this week to Washington, where the Israeli premier met President Barack Obama in the White House.



## Cool Casino where those in the know go to play!



The great perks of gaming at Cool Casino in the Palm Beach has created a dedicated clientele; ask them what they like about the cozy casino, and they don't know where to start! The free slot tournaments every Sunday? Major pay-offs in their weekly Blackjack tournaments every Tuesday and Friday? Ladies' night every Wednesday with entertainment from great local bands? Or perhaps just the terrific benefits of being "One Cool Member" which earns players bonus points towards additional activities, free dinners, day passes at the Riu Resort, credit for play, or best of all: hard, cool cash! The casino opens daily at 10:00 AM and on Saturdays and Sundays, all are greeted with an early

morning "Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.



Cool Casino is a great place to learn to understand such table games as Craps and Roulette, as they offer free instructions and minimums for beginners with which anyone can have fun and feel very comfortable. High-stakes tables and a major weekly blackjack tournament will

keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!



## Parents Guide to Skin Protection



It's important to protect your children's skin from the damaging effects of the sun. No matter what they're doing or what time of year it is, if they are outdoors, they need to be protected.

Aruba is one of the places in the world where the sun is the strongest. Located only 12.5 degrees north of the equator, the sun shines with maximum strength and penetrates the atmosphere with a maximum amount of UV rays. What most people don't know on water and sand, which means that even in the shade you need protection.

Protecting the skin from the sun during childhood and adolescence is important in reducing cancer risks later in life. By building safe sun habits into your family's daily routine, you will make your children understand and get used to being protected against the sun and they will become more

can't see through when held up to light.

- Cover up with Hats. Choose hats that shade your child's face, neck and ears.

- Apply Sunscreen every day on skin that is not protected by clothing or a hat. Choose a sunscreen with a high Sun Protection Factor (SPF) such as Aruba Aloe's Waterproof SPF 30 sunscreen for maximum protection. For babies and children under 2 years old, make sure to use a special sunscreen that gives extra protection for the sensitive skin such as "Waterproof Babies SPF 30" from Aruba Aloe. Remember to reapply after swimming, sweating or toweling dry if you use a sunscreen that is not waterproof.

- Use sunscreen even on



hazy or overcast days.

- Keep an extra bottle of sunscreen in the car.

- Pack a bottle of sunscreen in your child's bag.

- Use Sunglasses that block UV rays and protect the eyes and the surrounding tender skin.

- Play in the Shade. The sun's rays are generally strongest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If your children are outdoors, make sure their skin is protected.

- Teach your children the shadow rule. When outside, if your shadow is shorter than you are, it means that the sun is high in the sky and the UV rays are most intense.

- Protect children younger than 6 months of age with clothing and keep them in the shade.

For more advice on how to best protect your and your children's skin against the sun, please call Aruba Aloe: 588-3222 or visit the website [www.ArubaAloe.com](http://www.ArubaAloe.com)

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aware of the harmful effects it can have to their skin. Parents should take the lead by giving the good example; children will respond better when they see their parents protecting their skin as well.

**Important recommendations:**

- Wear protective clothing when out in the sun. Choose shirts and slacks made of tightly woven fabrics that you



## SPORTS

## Golf: Aussie Lyle battling cancer



Lyle's manager Tony Bouffler said the player was thrilled at the prospect of being a father because he had feared chemotherapy as a teenager would make him infertile.

"He's of good country stock and he's pretty resilient," said Bouffler.

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australian golfer Jarrod Lyle has been diagnosed with a recurrence of leukaemia and will begin treatment next week, just days after the induced birth of his first child.

Lyle, 30, a member of the USPGA Tour, was revealed by fellow professional and countryman Robert Allenby on Friday to be preparing for a second fight against cancer after overcoming acute myeloid leukemia as a 17-year-old.

The shock diagnosis was delivered when Lyle sought treatment from his local doctor for an infection from an insect bite he sustained in Mexico. Blood tests revealed leukaemia had returned.

His wife Briony was expected to be induced on Friday night or early today so Lyle could be at the birth before travelling to Melbourne to start chemotherapy on Monday morning.

"He's really excited about the baby."

Bouffler described another round of chemotherapy as "overwhelming".

Allenby, a close friend of Lyle's who revealed the diagnosis on Twitter, was shocked and described developments as "a complete tragedy".

Allenby said he told Lyle that because he had beaten cancer before, he could do it again.

"My heart goes out to my mate, great golfer Jarrod Lyle, new baby coming tomorrow & big fight at cancer again!!" Allenby tweeted.

Lyle matched his best finish on the US PGA Tour three weeks ago at Riviera in California where he missed a play-off by two shots and tied for fifth. He went to Mexico and tied for 37th.

Perhaps his greatest fame in America came last year at the Phoenix Open, when he made

an ace on the infamous par-three 16th hole at the TPC Scottsdale.

His debut year on the USPGA Tour was 2007 and he has kept his card for the last three consecutive years.

## Football: Rangers stars accept pay cuts up to 75 percent



GLASGOW (AFP) - Players at crisis-hit Rangers on Friday accepted pay cuts of between 25 and 75 percent, with administrators insisting that the wage-reduction deal has secured jobs at the club.

In a statement, joint administrator Paul Clark said: "We are pleased to announce today a package of cost-cutting measures has been agreed with the Rangers playing staff that enables the club to move forward."

He explained that players have agreed cuts ranging from 25-75 percent while coaching staff have also accepted reductions and midfielders Mervan Celik and Gregg Wylde have voluntarily left the club.

The statement continued: "The agreement on very substantial wage reductions and voluntary departures from the club represents a major sacrifice by the Rangers players."

"The discussions have been lengthy and by no means easy

for anyone involved but the most important objective in all of this process has been to achieve an outcome that will help save the club.

"There are a small number of matters still to be dealt with over the weekend but we do not believe these will be insurmountable in the completion of an agreement."

"This has been a difficult week for everyone at the club and we are pleased that we can now move forward and focus on the next steps in the recovery process."

Administrators were called in on February 14 after British tax authorities went to court to seek payment of an unpaid bill of £9 million (\$14m) built up since owner Craig Whyte took charge at Ibrox in May.

Administration meant the Scottish champions were docked 10 points -- a move that effectively handed this season's Scottish Premier League title to arch Glasgow rivals Celtic.

## Football: Euro 2012 managers tip Spain, Germany

WARSAW (AFP) - Fellow managers on Friday tipped defending European champions Spain and Euro 2008 second-placers Germany as hot favorites to win this year's tournament.

After wrapping up a two-day meeting of all 16 Euro 2012 qualifier nations in tournament co-hosts Poland, managers were pressed by reporters to give their forecasts for the final outcome.

"I think everyone knows who the favorites are. For me, they are Germany and Spain," Poland manager Franciszek Smuda said.

Even Germany boss Joachim Loew said the 2008 victors were the team to beat.

"It's Spain, in any event. The other nations come in their wake," Loew said, adding: "Our own minimum target is to clear the first round. Then we will see. Our group is very difficult of course, with Portugal, the Netherlands and Denmark.

"Of course we can have the confidence to say that our aim is to go to the quarter-finals."

France's Laurent Blanc, meanwhile, said his favorites were Spain, Germany and Holland.

Ireland's Italian manager, Giovanni Trapattoni, also agreed that the Spanish were top of the tree but warned that surprises could not be ruled out.

"There's a team that's very strong, a famous team, and that is Spain, but then also England, Holland, Germany. Usually these four. But I remember when Greece won (Euro 2004). So in football, all is possible," Trapattoni said.

"I think every manager, every country, has the possibility to dream," he added.

Croatia's Slaven Bilic echoed Trapattoni that Spain were the favorites.

"But in my view, there's also Germany, Holland and other countries with a big tradition, such as Italy or Eng-

land," he said.

"Every team has a chance and we're hoping, too, that

with a little luck and if we play well, we can do well too."



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"Together we will learn"



## NBA: Magic hold on for big road win over Bulls



Orlando Magic forward Glen Davis (11) tosses a full-court pass over the leaping Chicago Bulls forward Carlos Boozer (5), during NBA basketball game Thursday, March 8, 2012, in Chicago.

CHICAGO (AFP) - The Orlando Magic let a nine-point fourth-quarter lead evaporate but toughened up in the waning minutes to claim a 99-94

NBA victory over Chicago that snapped the Bulls' eight-game winning streak.

Dwight Howard finished with 29 points, 18 rebounds and three blocks -- all game-highs.

## Baseball: Padres chief exec pulls ownership bid

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - San Diego Padres chief executive Jeff Moorad withdrew his application to Major League Baseball to take ownership of the club on Friday to hasten approval of a new television deal for the Padres.

The National League club announced the move, which still leaves Moorad two years in a five-year deal for him to purchase a controlling interest in the Padres as the start of the 2012 season looms in less than three weeks.

"(Chairman) John Moores and I believe our top priority is to ensure that Padres fans will be able to watch broadcasts of what we believe is an exciting baseball team," Moorad said.

"I remain fully committed to the San Diego Padres and our fans and am looking forward to the 2012 season."

The Padres are expected to work with Fox Sports in a new

"We had to commit our whole team to him," Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau said.

The Magic had led by as many as 18 in the second quarter of Thursday's contest.

But Carlos Boozer's jump shot gave Chicago a 91-89 lead with 2:55 remaining.

Orlando then lost Jason Richardson -- who made four of their 11 three-point shots -- to a sprained left ankle suffered in a collision with teammate Jameer Nelson.

Nelson shrugged off the incident to connect with Dwight Howard for an alley-oop dunk to knot the score, and forward Ryan Anderson drained a three-pointer to put the Magic up 94-91.

Anderson added two free-throws with 46.7 seconds left as the Magic finished the game on a 10-3 scoring run.

The Magic rebounded in a big way from their disappointing loss to NBA stragglers Charlotte on Tuesday, beating a Bulls team that came into the contest with the best record in the league.

"We took the loss (to Charlotte) hard," Anderson said. "This was a big win. We wanted to show how good we are."

Boozer led the Bulls with 26 points. NBA Most Valuable Player Derrick Rose added 17 for Chicago but shot just 6-of-22 from the field.

telecast package but the deal has not yet been completed.

Moorad said in January he was poised to make an all-cash transaction and that cash and the signed documents were in escrow, but Major League Baseball owners tabled his application on January 12, seeking clarification on some financial details.

"Jeff is withdrawing his control transfer application of the Padres at this time in order to focus on completing the club's local television contract," Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig said.

"I'm pleased John and Jeff are working on ensuring that the club's games will be televised this season and beyond and I know that they are acting in the best interests of baseball, the franchise and the great fans of San Diego."

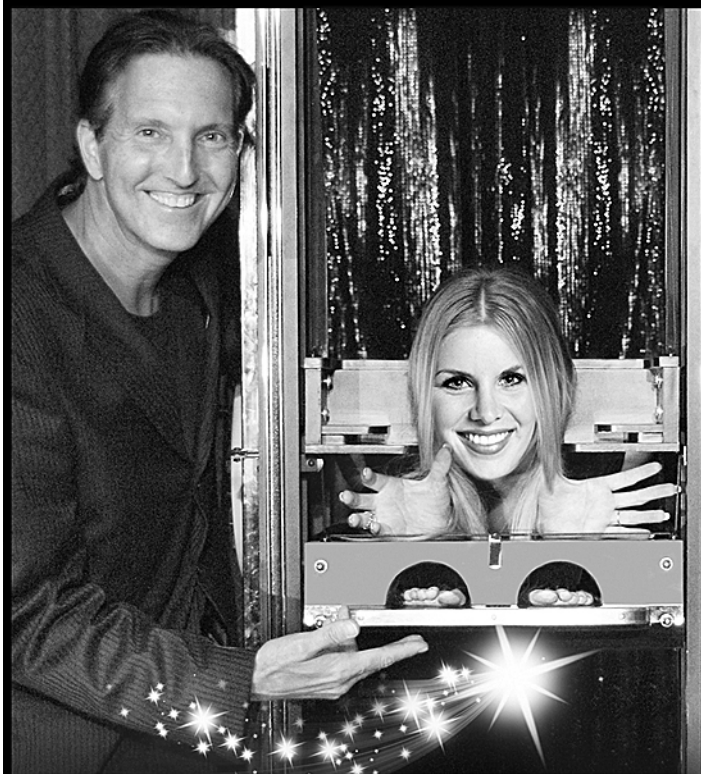
In 2010, Moorad increased his stake in the Padres from 35 percent to 49 percent.

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[MagicOnTheBeach.com](http://MagicOnTheBeach.com)

## First Ms. Canada Beach Volleyball Tournament...

*continued from page 16*

Ambiente Feliz, a home for mentally challenged adults will have a beautiful new garden thanks to the tools and plants purchased for them by the proceeds, and Aruban Police Motorcycle Corpsman Agbert Groes received a donation of \$1,000 to finance his reconstructive surgery in Holland, after a grievous injury in the line of duty.

Michelle expresses her heartfelt gratitude to La Cabana Beach Resort & Racquet Club, Tropicana Beach

Resort and Carlos at the tennis courts for their unfailing support. She also offers thanks and congratulations to Henry from Queen's Jewelers in Oranjestad for not only providing the beautiful grand prize from the raffle, but for being the first place winning team, receiving a beautiful trophy for their athletic prowess.

The day was all in good fun for a good cause, and everyone is ready to do it again next year.

*by Rosalie Klein*

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## First Ms. Canada Beach Volleyball Tournament for charity a huge success



Donations to Casa Cuna



Michelle and helpers

On Saturday, March 4, the inaugural Ms. Canada Beach Volleyball Tournament, organized by Michelle Begin of Ottawa, took place on the La Cabana Beach. "We are overwhelmed and gratified by the wonderful response from the Aruban community for our fundraising efforts," report Michelle and her husband Jean, who annually stay on Aruba for about 5 weeks during the winter months, either at La Cabana or Tropicana resorts.

Michelle is active in volunteer and charity work, having financed and overseen improvements to a girl's school in Tanzania and other important worthwhile projects. "I just love the Aruba and the wonderful people here; they make my time on the island a delight. I felt compelled to 'give something back.'"

Michelle enjoyed the enthusiastic sponsorship of sev-

eral vendors, who offered raffle prizes as well, and she managed to recruit 12 teams to compete in the tournament, which attracted a mob of spectators. The proceeds of snacks and drinks donated by Senior Frogs and Balashi Brewery went entirely to the funds to be donated.

The Ms. Canada Beach Volleyball Tournament managed to raise over \$4500 (U.S.) which was divided among three local foundations, the lion's share going to Mi Por, which assists children ages infant to 18 who have Cerebral Palsy. Casa Cuna Progresso, a part of island social services, is a live-in, full care-facility for youngsters ages infant to 7 years from troubled or broken homes, they received nearly \$1,000 worth of diapers, formula, toys and other necessary items.

*continues on page 15*

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## Brazil views row with FIFA as 'closed matter'

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Brazilian authorities said Friday their dispute with FIFA over its secretary general's controversial comments about the slow pace of stadium renovation was a "closed matter."

Nevertheless, football's world governing body announced that its secretary general Jerome Valcke would postpone his planned visit to Brazil.

"This matter is closed. I already said it in a letter," Brazilian sports minister Aldo Rebelo told a press conference before inspecting Rio's legendary Maracana stadium to monitor progress in the renovation work.

Valcke, who unleashed a firestorm of protest last week when he said the Brazilian organizers of the 2014 World Cup showpiece needed a "kick up the backside" because of the lagging preparations, put off a visit to Brazil planned for Monday, the organization said.

FIFA earlier this week apologized for Valcke's remarks, which offended Brazilian authorities.

Valcke's trip to monitor progress in stadium construction work in Recife, Brasilia and Cuiaba -- three of the 12 Brazilian cities that will host World Cup matches -- will be "rescheduled" after a planned



Fifa secretary general Jerome Valcke

meeting between Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and FIFA President Sepp Blatter, a FIFA statement said.

No date has yet been set for the Rousseff-Blatter meeting.

FIFA has for months ex-

pressed concern over whether preparations, such as infrastructure projects and renovation or construction of stadiums, are on track for the first World Cup in Brazil since 1950.

Valcke said he profoundly regretted that an incorrect interpretation of his comments had triggered such an angry response from the host country.

"I would like to present my apologies to everyone who was offended by my comments," said Valcke, a French national.

He explained that in French the phrase "se donner un coup de pied aux fesses" (to give someone a kick up the backside) only meant "to pick up the pace." The translation into Portuguese used a stronger expression, he added.

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